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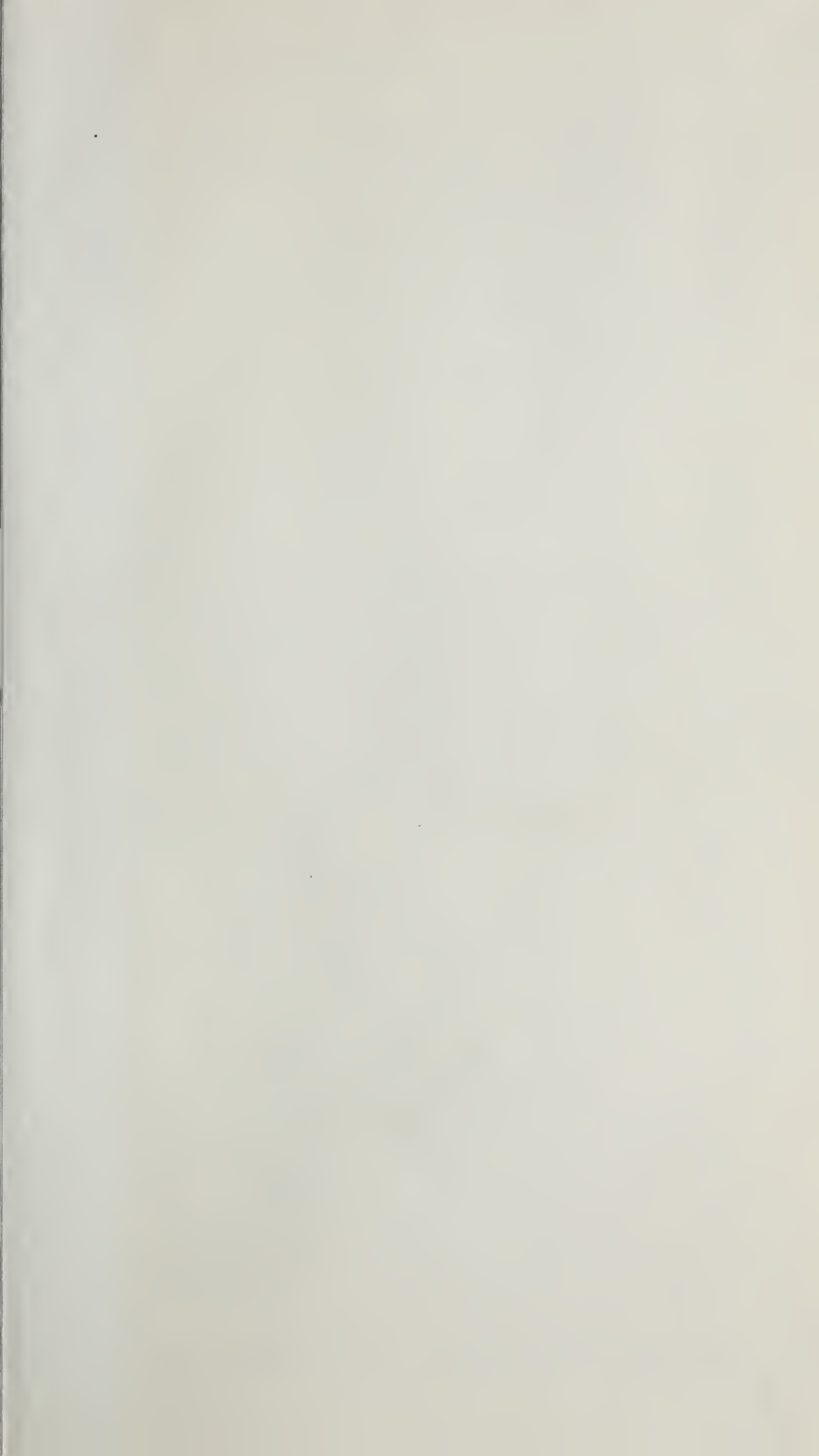
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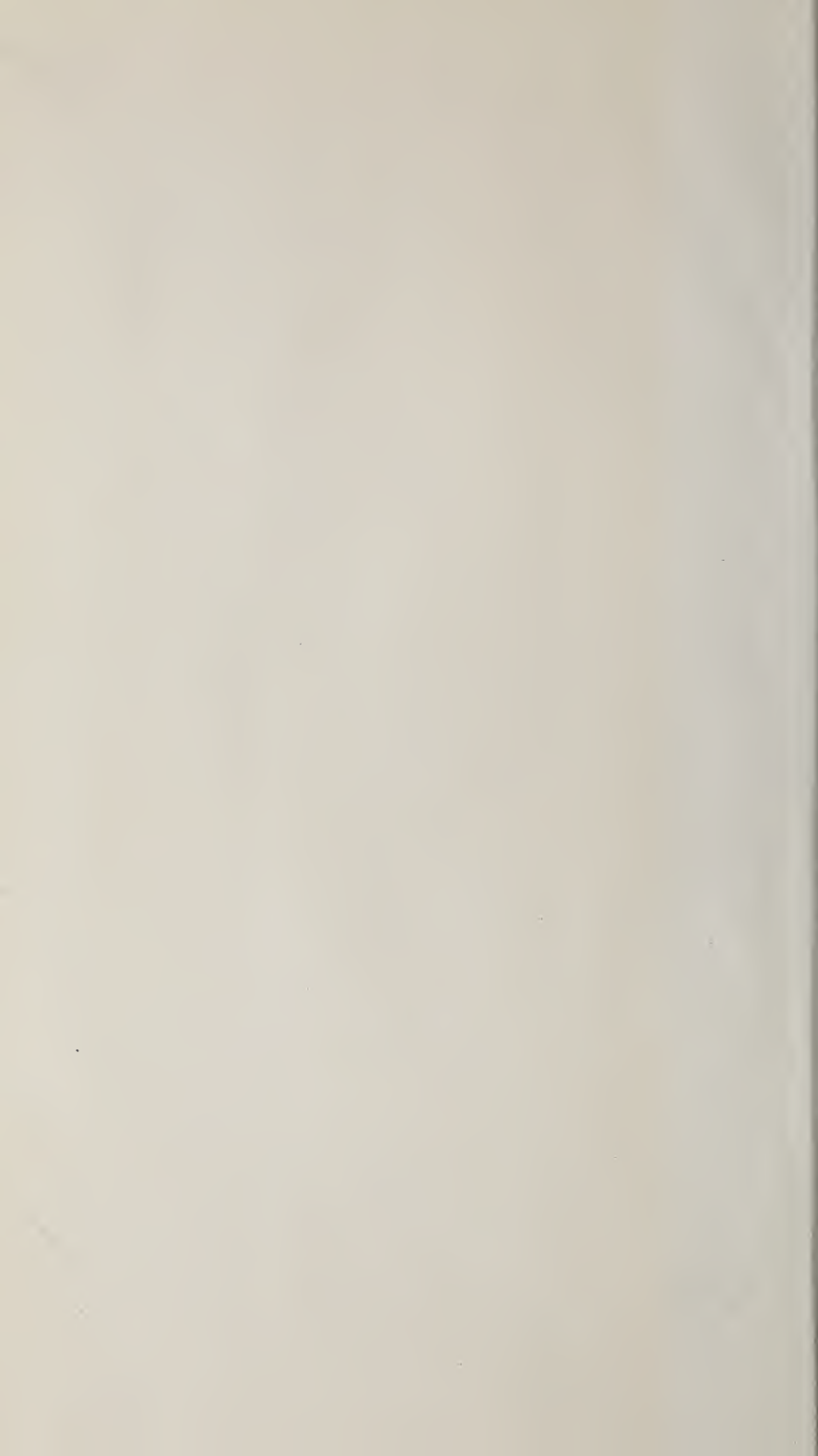


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HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF WOOD COUNTY

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BY

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WRITTEN FOR
THE SENTINEL-TRIBUNE

Historical Highlights of Wood County



Bowling Green's first settler was Elisha Martindale of Lenox, Massachusetts, who entered from the government on October 29, 1832, a large portion of the land now embraced within the Fourth Ward. First settling at Fort Meigs and then Maumee, he built the first house in Bowling Green, a log cabin, in the spring of 1833. The location was on a ridge on the west side of present Haskins street, south of the B. & O. railroad crossing. Then followed closely Alfred Thurstin, Lee Moore, Henry Walker, Jacob Stouffer, and Joseph Hollington.

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The first regular mail route through Bowling Green was established February 7, 1823, between Bellefontaine and Perrysburg, eleven years before this settlement had a post office, with Joseph Gordon, a Kentuckian, the mail carrier. Fort Findlay was the only intervening post office and the route followed mostly the line of General Hull's army trail. The distance through the wilderness was eighty-one miles and Gordon was the carrier for nearly seventeen years.

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That prehistoric people, the Moundbuilders, left evidences of their handiwork in Wood county, wrought hundreds if not thousands of years before the time of the American Indian known to history. There was a conspicuous earthworks on the Maumee river bank about two miles above Perrysburg, old settlers referred to as a "mysterious fort" in which cinders were found, besides burials in other sections. Therefore, there was a man made defense works on the Maumee ages before Fort Meigs was planned.

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The first white men definitely known to have viewed Bowling Green's site were Isaac Zane, Robert Armstrong and James McPherson, noted scouts, who in June, 1812, blazed the route for General Hull's army on their expedition from Dayton to Detroit. The trail through Bowling Green followed closely the present line of the New York Central railroad. Zane was a brother of Elizabeth (Betty) Zane, heroine of Fort Henry and of the story of "Betty Zane" by Zane Grey, while Armstrong was given a large tract of land by the Maumee treaty of 1817, in present Tiffin.

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There were no Indian villages in Wood county famed in history such as known in some sections of Ohio, although there were Indian trails along the creeks and "Portage paths" connecting various streams. The Shawnees had a small village for a time where Perrysburg is and Chief Tontog-a-nee was at the head of an Ottawa village at the mouth of Tontogany creek. However, there were evidences of Indian camps and burial grounds in all sections of the county.

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The noted Shawnee Indian Chief Tecumseh was once on Bowling Green soil. With a band of his blood-thirsty warriors he pursued an army supply convoy along General Hull's trail southward in the summer of 1812, on their return to Chillicothe from reaching near Detroit with three hundred beef cattle and seventy pack-horses each carrying two hundred pounds of flour. The pursuit was as near to Fort Findlay as Tecumseh thought prudent to follow. Indians in their native state, as

hunters and trappers, were not known to Bowling Green or Wood county after 1835, except a few stragglers.

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The first government land grant in now Wood county was made April 26, 1816, to Amos Spafford, a surveyor and first collector of the District and Port of Miami (1805), for 160 acres within the Twelve Miles Square Reserve, foot of the Maumee Rapids. The tract was on the right bank of the Maumee river, south of Perrysburg and adjoining Fort Meigs.

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The village of Portage as far as its settlement goes is eight years older than Bowling Green; that is, Collister Haskins purchased land on the Liberty township side where a part of Portage now stands in 1824 and built a cabin and established a trading point with the Indians, while Elisha Martindale did not make his land entry in now Bowling Green until 1832. Haskins constructed a dam across the Portage river and built a water-power sawmill.

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Bowling Green's post office was established March 12, 1834, with Henry Walker the first postmaster. The office was located in the cabin of Jacob Stouffer and his son-in-law Walker, situated on a ridge near the junction of now North Main street, east side, and Merry avenue. Gordon, the mail carrier, was given a glass of cider for naming the office after his native Kentucky town.

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The first white settler in Center township was Benjamin Cox who built a cabin near the Portage river on the northeast quarter of section 32, close to the present Wood County Home. The date was late in 1827. He brought a hand mill with him, the first for grain grinding in all this section. He was in fact a squatter but his son, Joseph Cox, made the first land entry in the township, section 28, in 1831, the Joseph Russell place, east of Bowling Green. Benjamin Cox served in the War of 1812. A daughter, Elizabeth, married Jacob Eberly, grandfather of C. B. Eberly, Bowling Green. A sister of Elizabeth Cox, Lydia, born in Findlay in 1817, was the first white child born in Hancock county.

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The area of Wood county is given as 382,845 acres by one authority and 385,970 by another record. The population is approximately 48,500. Bowling Green, near the center of the county, is in latitude 41 degrees 24 minutes 30 seconds north, and longitude six degrees, 44 minutes west of the Washington meridian. The altitude of Bowling Green is 167 feet above the level of Lake Erie or 739.9 feet above sea level; the Foot of the Rapids of the Maumee river (Perrysburg) 634.9 feet above sea level; Bloomdale is 183 feet above lake level; Weston 164 feet; Bairdstown 184 feet; the north line of section 17, Middleton township, is only 91 feet above lake level.

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More than fifty per cent of Wood county is drained by the Portage river system. The two main branches of the Portage join at Pemberville and above that place spread out fan-shaped, taking water from Fostoria and west to Deshler, through its various branches. From Pemberville the Portage river reaches lake Erie at Port Clinton. The Maumee river drains the western and northwestern section of the county, the main tributaries of the Maumee in Wood being Beaver Creek and Tontogany creek. Toussaint creek drains a small section of the county into Lake Erie.

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Weston township once included Grand Rapids township. Weston township was established June 14, 1830, under the name of Ottawa township, after the Ottawa Indians, and included a large section of that part of the county. The name was changed to Weston township December 6, 1830. The first township officers were: trustees, Edward Howard, William

Pratt and Emanuel Arnold; treasurer, D. W. H. Howard; clerk, R. A. Howard. Weston village was first called Taylortown after the original landowner. Weston was incorporated February 10, 1873. The first mayor was Sanford Baldwin; clerk, Frank M. Young; treasurer, Isaac W. Clayton; marshal, William Shope.

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Excepting the Military lodge at Fort Meigs in 1813, the first Masonic lodge in Wood county was organized in a log cabin which stood facing Tontogany creek, northwest of Tontogany village. The first meeting to organize was held at the Mission Station mouth of Tontogany creek in 1842, called by Morris Brown, a teacher and farmer of Milton township. A dispensation was granted April 29, 1843 and the lodge was organized June 7, following. The charter members were: Emilius Wood, Martin Warner, David Maginis, Sr., Sylvanus Hatch, Morrison McMillen, Jarvis Curtis, Morris Brown and Leonard Pierce. In 1849 the lodge quarters were moved to 'Mt. Ararat' as the southern section of now Bowling Green was then called, meetings being held in the second story of Lee Moores home. This is briefly the story of present Wood County Lodge No. 112, F. & A. M. Meetings were once held in the old Thomas House site of the Millikin Hotel, then in the Owen's Building on east side of North Main street, and in 1870 the third story of the Rogers Block was occupied.

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Wood county was established by an act of the Legislature passed February 12, 1820, together with fourteen counties carved from the lands purchased from the Indians by the Lower Maumee treaty of September 29, 1817. But the act provided for the organization of only two counties —Wood and Sandusky, and April 1st following was the time named for selecting county officers. Lucas was then a part of Wood county and Maumee was named in the act as the temporary seat of justice.

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Wood county was named for Colonel Eleazor D. Wood, a graduate of West Point, a gallant soldier and the engineer who planned Fort Meigs. The first expenditure made for Wood county on its organization April 12, 1820, was for a record book, costing \$4.50 which was purchased on credit, the amount being the county's total indebtedness.

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The last session of the county commissioners of Wood county held at Maumee the temporary seat of justice, was on September 2, 1822, and the first session at Perrysburg the permanent county seat, was March 3, 1823. The first court house at Perrysburg, a log structure, was located opposite the river side of Front street and just off Louisiana Avenue, west.

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The vote on the question of the removal of the county seat from Perrysburg to Bowling Green held October 9, 1866, was as follows: Perrysburg township, for removal 17, against removal 817: Lake, three for and 163 against; Troy for 15, against 176: Freedom for 164, against 28: Montgomery, for 271, against 58: Perry, for 265, against three: Bloom, solid 263 for removal: Portage, 180 for, 21 against; Center, 261 for, one against; Middleton, 58 for, 168 against; Washington 21 for, 223 against; Plain, 333 for, seven against; Liberty, 151 for, 36 against; Henry, 117 for, none against; Jackson, 47 for removal; Milton, 99 for, 116 against; Weston, 86 for, 291 against; Webster, 103 for and 68 against. Total 2454 for and 2176 against removal, 17 scattering. The first business transacted by the county commissioners after the completion of the first court house at Bowling Green, begun in 1868, and the removal of all records from Perrysburg to the new seat of justice, was on April 19, 1870.

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The first execution in Wood county took place in public November 5, 1830, on a gallows built at the foot of Fort Meigs near the Wood county

end of the Maumee Perrysburg bridge. The victim was George Porter, a half-breed Indian, who under great provocation, shot Isaac Richardson in a dispute over wages. The executioner was Sheriff John Webb.

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Fort Meigs constructed in the spring of 1813, was the most important military post of the northwest in the War of 1812. The first siege by the British under General Proctor and his Indian allies, opened May 1, 1813, and continued for nine days when the enemy sailed for Maldin, Canada. A second demonstration against the post was made by the British under the same commander and several thousand Indians under Tecumseh in July following but no attack was made.

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Bowling Green's first manufacturing plant was a large ashery. It was established by L. C. Locke, who in 1847 with E. D. Peck of Perrysburg, bought from Alfred Thurstin an acre of ground where A. Froney & Company's big department store now stands and built a combined residence and store. Locke becoming postmaster, located the office in his store and thereby established Bowling Green's business center, which at first had threatened to be at Mt. Ararat, south at the Napoleon road, and then north at the present Poe road and Main street intersections.

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In 1854 there was no house or building west on now Wooster street, Bowling Green, between a small store kept by Mrs. Maria Pike on the old Wood County Savings Bank corner and the "Gorrill" brick house where the Children's Home is located. East on now Wooster street from Main, except the Alfred Thurstin corner, there were no improvements until the little stone house occupied by a Frenchman named Donzey (the old Crim place) was reached. A half dozen log and frame buildings was the sum total on Main street.

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The Maumee Indian mission located on the Maumee river at the mouth of Tontogany creek, was opened in 1822 by the Presbyterian Synod of Pittsburgh, Pa.; transferred to the United Foreign Missionary Society, October 25, 1825; consolidated with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in June, 1826. The mission closed in 1834 when the Indians were moved to the west and the plant remained the property of the society until 1852.

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Besides Fort Meigs, another military post in Wood county was a blockhouse and stockade built by General Hull's army in June, 1812, on the march from Dayton to Detroit. It was occupied most of the period during the war and stood on the right bank of the Portage river, south of the present village of Portage and west of the Dixie highway.

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Arriving too late to head off Winchester from his advance to the River Raisin disaster, when General Harrison at Winchester's camp on the Maumee heard of the latter's defeat, he burned the storehouses and "retreated eighteen miles to the Portage river." Harrison's camp on this retreat, January 22nd, 1813, was where Pemberville now is, where he remained ten days until reinforcements came from Upper Sandusky; whereupon with 1700 men he returned to the Maumee river and selected the site for Fort Meigs.

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General William Hull's old army trail made in June, War of 1812, still shows plainly in a little wooded spot on the George Grant farm, southwest of Cygnet and on the east of the Dixie Highway. The point is marked by an Ohio memorial tablet, suitably inscribed.

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The Elisha Martindale family, Bowling Green's first settlers, in the

winter of 1833-34, killed four hundred flying squirrels that raided the corn placed in the attic of their cabin to keep dry. The daughter, Louisa, then twelve years old, relates in her memoirs of witnessing the greatest meteoric display of all history, which took place on the night of November 13, 1833.

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Perrysburg in 1840, when General Harrison ran for president, had an organ factory owned by William M. Tappan, five hotels and a dozen general stores; also a machine shop run by G. C. Minkler and H. T. Smith's printing plant; four tailor shops, J. C. Spink insurance, a cabinet and harness shop, several lawyers and doctors and a number of mills.

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Wood county had a heavy fur trade at an early day. Julius Blum one dealer alone at Perrysburg in the season ending in April, 1859, purchased the following skins: 36,898 muskrat, 10,861 coon, 4,629 skunk, 1,375 mink, 679 deer, 478 house cat, two cross fox, 106 red fox, 181 gray fox, 525 opossum, 22 wild cat, four Samson fox and six otter skins. Total value \$25,839.68.

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The first bridge across the Maumee from Wood county was built at Perrysburg in 1839. A bridge at Waterville was built in 1877, the third Wood and Lucas county joint bridge being at Grand Rapids. There were numerous ferries operated across the Maumee in Wood county, beginning between Maumee and Perrysburg in 1820.

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When organized in 1820, Wood county had a population of 733 but as now Lucas county was then a part of Wood, not more than one-third of that number of white persons resided within the present limits of Wood. In 1830, before Lucas county was detached, the population was 1,102. In 1840, present Wood county's population was 5,357; in 1850, 9,157; in 1860, 17,886.

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The population of Wood county in 1840 by townships as then organized was as follows: Bloom, 437; Center, 297; Freedom, 238; Henry, 213; Jackson, 26; Liberty, 215; Middleton, 193; Milton and Weston, including now Grand Rapids, 539; Montgomery, 609; Perry, 559; Perrysburg, 1041; Plain, 272; Portage, 199; Troy, 383; Washington, 244.

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The first land surveys in present Wood county were made by Engineer Elias Grover in 1805. They were within the twelve miles-square reserve, including portions of now Perrysburg and Middleton township.

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Under the first and third calls for troops in the Civil War, Wood county with a population in 1860 of 17,886 sent out near 750 volunteers. The majority of whom served three years, and including the draft, furnished about one in ten of her population. On April 27, 1861, the Perrysburg volunteers left on the steamer "Belle" for Cleveland under the title of "Fort Meigs Rifles." The "Gilead Worth Guards" had 109 men, and fifty men were enrolled in Bowling Green by the night of April 24. Every section of the county showed equal patriotism.

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At Bowling Green on June 9, 1851, was organized the Wood County Agricultural Society. The first fair was held at Bowling Green, October 15 and 16, in the old grove on North Church street. In 1852 the display was held at Perrysburg and in 1853 again at Bowling Green. The fourth and fifth fairs were held at Portage, and in 1856 and 1857 again at Bowling Green. In 1860 Perrysburg was selected, and after the war, permanent grounds were purchased by the Society at Tontogany.

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To guard against raids of horse thieves, a band of which including

counterfeiting, established a line from Indiana through Williams, Henry, Wood and Sandusky counties, an organization was effected in 1837 with Liberty township the headquarters. Many of the outlaws were arrested and four or five convictions resulted. In June, 1853, was also organized the Western Horse Thief Association, made up mostly of citizens of the Weston and Grand Rapids section.

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The Perrysburg & Findlay Plank Road company was chartered February 3, 1849. A steam saw mill, four miles south of Perrysburg, and another four miles north of Bowling Green sawed the planking. In 1853 the road was corduroyed and completed to Bowling Green, with toll gates established—the present Dixie Highway.

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From 1835 on for several years, the Wood County Commissioners kept an individual "wolf scalp" journal, the price of a wolf scalp being \$4.25. The record contains such Indian names as Ke Corngosh, Missaukee, Aausk, Waseon, Quson, Pakee and Osaugé. Hundreds of dollars were also paid to white hunters up to the sixties.

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The first county school examiners for teachers, appointed by the judges of the Common Pleas Court of this district October, 1831, were—Horatio Conant, Isaac VanTassel, Elijah Huntington, Galon B. Abel, Moses P. Morgan and David Smith. This system of appointment continued until the new law vested the appointing power in the probate judge.

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It was on November 17, 1837, that a meeting was held at Perrysburg to consider means for improving the school system and elevating the standard of teachers. The graded or union public school of Maumee was established in 1842 and was taught by Francis Hollenbeck. Then similar schools were opened at Perrysburg, Waterville and Toledo. In the fifties, the state established a system of school libraries and the Wood County School Library received from the state, books and school apparatus valued at \$447.28, for the year ending December 1st, 1855.

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There were 8821 school pupils in Wood county in 1880 between the ages of six and sixteen years of whom 46 were colored, as against a total of about 13,000 in 1932. The average monthly salaries for teachers in the townships in 1890 was \$38 for males and \$26 for females, while in the high schools the average salaries of male teachers was \$52 and female teachers \$46.

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Teachers institutes of Wood county appear to have been a regularly organized body as far back as in 1851. Officers for a teachers institute held at the Presbyterian church in Bowling Green, in August, 1867, were as follows: President, S. S. Canfield; vice-presidents, William W. Callihan, Nellie Brown and Jane Gorrill; secretary, C. C. Layman; treasurer, Helen G. Robins; executive committee, D. A. Avery, John H. Whitehead and Guy C. Nearing. Later officers were Helen M. Van Tassel, E. E. Barton, A. Brisbin, J. E. Kerr, C. S. St. John and R. M. Donnelly.

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Collister Haskins, the first interior settler of Wood county, who purchased land where the village of Portage stands in 1824, was a native of Massachusetts and born in 1799. His mother was a cousin of President Franklin Pierce. His wife was Fanny Gunn, daughter of Martin Gunn of Waterville. The cabin of the new couple, raised by friends from Waterville, was the first back from the river and on the present Dr.

Knight farm. Haskins' nearest neighbor on the north was Miltonville and south at Findlay.

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Wood county's pioneer store, excepting Indian trading posts, was opened up by Wilson and Samuel Vance adjoining Fort Meigs in the spring of 1817. The proprietor was Joseph Vance, another brother, later governor of Ohio. Perrysburg, named for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, was located for the government by its agent, Alexander Bourne, in 1816, and surveyed by Joseph Wampler and William Brookfield. Major Amos Spafford named the town at the suggestion of Josiah Meigs, then land commissioner.

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The pioneer newspaper of Wood county and the Maumee Valley was **The Miami of the Lake**, issued at Perrysburg, December 11, 1833, by Jesup W. Scott and Henry Darling, the latter bringing the press and type from New York. In August, 1838, the name of the paper was changed to the **Ohio Whig**. The Perrysburg Journal is the lineal descendent of **The Miami of the Lake**.

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Bowling Green's first newspaper was **The Advocate**, a weekly, established May 18, 1866, to further the interests of the town in securing the county seat. After the election it ceased publication. Frank C. Culley issued the first number of **The Sentinel**, a weekly, on February 22, 1867. The first daily paper issued in Bowling Green was the **Daily Sentinel**, printed on the fair grounds from October 3, 1882, to the close of the fair by C. W. Evers.

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Many national characters were early landowners in Wood county, including President Rutherford B. Hayes; Joseph Vance, Reuben Wood, David Tod and Charles Foster, Governors of Ohio; Alpheus Felch, Austin Blair and H. H. Crapo, governors of Michigan; Caleb Smith, secretary of the interior under Lincoln; Chief Justice M. R. Waite; senators, Joshua R. Giddings and Benjamin Wade; Andrew D. White, president of Cornell University; General Thomas M. Keys and many others.

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Leases for oil are on record in Wood county early in the sixties of the last century. In April, 1861, J. L. Russell took to Perrysburg from Rocky Ford in Bloom township, samples of petroleum from a well drilled by an eastern company; prospecting was also carried on in Middleton township. Early in 1865 new ventures were made. Gas was found in a well drilled in section 30, Bloom township, and flowed for years through an old gun barrel sealed over the hole. The Perrysburg Petroleum Company was organized October 3, 1865.

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It is not generally known that the Hon. Asher Cook, the well remembered able jurist of Perrysburg, was a plasterer. But when Lock & Peck of Perrysburg bought an acre of ground on the east side of now Main street, Bowling Green, from Alfred Thurstin (Froney's store site) and opened a store, Cook then a young man, came out and did the plastering job for Locke. February 25, 1853, William Lewis bought the present Milikin Hotel corner for fifty dollars.

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The Stage lines of 1866 were operated by G. Z. Avery between Bowling Green and Tontogany and Bowling Green and Findlay, while J. Ames owned the Bowling Green and Haskins line with headquarters at the "Prairie House," Haskins. In 1871 P. M. Clifford ran the Tontogany hack line.

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The big Bowling Green fire of August, 1887, showed the weakness of fire protection, consequently in January, 1888, more adequate fire apparatus was purchased. A new fire company of thirty-one members was enrolled, with George W. Gagham, chief, Rev. J. H. Palmer, foreman, J. D.

Bolles, first assistant, B. J. Froney, second assistant, Aus Harrison, secretary. C. B. Eberly treasurer. George C. Ordway, foreman of the hose company, and William Shemenour, foreman of the hook and ladder company. But without waterworks, the fire of October, 1888, also proved disastrous.

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The Bowling Green Natural Gas Company was organized April 11, 1885, and by October that year gas mains were laid in all the principal streets and gas for illuminating and fuel purposes for homes, stores and factories provided.

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Bowling Green's pioneer railroad company was organized June 6, 1874, with S. L. Boughton, president and general manager; A. J. Manville, vice-president; A. A. Thurstin, secretary; Frank Beverstock, treasurer; who with S. W. St. John, Henry Lundy and J. R. Rudolph were directors. During the first week in May, 1875, connection with the then C. H. & D. at Tontogany was made and combination trains made three trips daily each way. The total operating expenses for the month ending July 17, 1875, was \$182 and earnings \$394.26.

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The first religious services attended by the family of Elisha Martindale, Bowling Green's first settlers, who occupied their cabin in now the Fourth Ward in April, 1833, were held that year at the home of Collister Haskins in present Portage, who located there in 1824; evening services being held at the home of John M. Jaques. A Methodist Society was organized in 1834 and services were held at the log school house at the corner of present Napoleon road and South Main street.

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The Bowling Green Commercial Club is the outgrowth of a meeting held at the old Y. M. C. A. rooms January 11, 1910. Robert Place was chairman of the meeting and S. A. Canary, secretary. The organization was completed January 18.

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Wood county is subdivided into twenty townships, the outline surveys of which except two or three townships set off at a later date, were made before Wood county was organized; mostly in the year 1819 by Engineers Alexander and Samuel Holmes and Samuel Bourne. Grand Rapids is the county's youngest township and was set off from Weston township September 25, 1888.

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A dispute arising as to a name for Henry township when organized December 3, 1836, it was planned that Jabez Bell and Henry Shaw should both start for Perrysburg with the report of the organization and the first arrival should decide the name. Bell attempted to steal a march on Shaw by mounting a horse, but on reaching Perrysburg the first man he met was Shaw, who although on foot reached the goal first and as its first settler the township was named Henry in his honor instead of Bell.

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The first settler in Jackson township was John Dubbs who located on section one in April, 1853. A band of Ottawa Indians occupied the land and Dubbs moved into one of the Indian shanties until he built a cabin of his own. In the spring of 1836 the noted hunter, Peter Hockenberry, located in the northwest part of Jackson township marketing hundreds of dollars worth of pelts of bear, deer, wolf, fox, wild cat, coon, mink and other skins. One thousand dollars in gold he had buried was never found after his death, although he attempted to describe its location at the foot of a large oak tree.

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Weston township was established June 14, 1830, under the name of "Ottawa township" and included a large section of that part of the coun-

ty. In early days in some quarters it was the custom to sell the services of the poor people to the highest bidder. On March 7, 1859, the trustees of Weston township sold Spencer Parley a pauper to Wesley Ebert for the price of two dollars per week for one year.

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Weston village was early called Taylortown, Custar was known as Lewisburg, Grand Rapids was first Gilead, Wayne was Freeport and then Prairie Depot, Scotch Ridge was Householder's Corners, and Dunbridge is a combination of the first platters, Robert Dunn and Trowbridge. Blinn was a postoffice in 1883 at Norris Station, Perry township. Benton was a town on the Maumee river between Vollmar's and Waterville, Linson was platted below Perrysburg, Rudolph was early known as Mercers, Miltonville was named for Milton Baird.

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When Thomas Howard, the grandfather of Dresden W. H. Howard, Dresden's father, Edward Howard, his uncle, Robert A. Howard, located at now Grand Rapids in 1822 and built three cabins in the wilderness, there was an Indian village near the mouth of Beaver Creek, while on the ridges along the creek were other Indian lodges. Dresden for three years attended the Indian Mission school at the mouth of Tontogany creek and was the only white pupil at the time.

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Of the many early fourth of July accidents by the careless use of anvils and old rusty cannons, was one at Grand Rapids (Gilead). In the 1856 celebration there, they borrowed an old 1812 cannon from Perrysburg. On being loaded by T. J. Sterling, the cannon exploded prematurely and the ramrod sped across the river and crippled Joseph Shannon.

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On October 25, 1835, while the older members of the Frederick Frankfather family of Bloom township were at a neighbors, Mary, not yet five years old, wandered into the woods. After eleven days of searching by hundreds, the child was found near the cabin of John Dubbs in the northwest edge of Jackson township. Her clothing was torn by brambles and while famished, she had evidently subsisted on nuts and wild fruit. "Tip," the dog that accompanied her, was never found and may have been killed by wolves.

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When it came to the naming of Bloom township on its organization in 1835, Samuel Heller proposed "Green", Jonathan Hay, "Amanda", while Daniel Robbons preferred "Bloom." They each agreed to write their favorite name on a paper which Hay carried to Perrysburg and the commissioners decided upon Bloom. The first name of Bloomdale post office was also Bloom.

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George Williams of Columbiana county, purchased what is known as the "Williams Farm" of 700 acres, east of Bowling Green, mostly prairie, for \$3.25 per acre. In 1852 he raised 140 acres of corn and seventeen acres of buckwheat and sold 4000 bushels of corn at sixty-one cents per bushel, and 700 bushels of buckwheat at thirty-one cents per bushel.

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Twenty-eight years after General Harrison had camped at Portage river "Forks" (Pemberville) in January, 1813, when he retreated with his forces from the Maumee river after Winchester's defeat at the River Raisin, one of the Pembers found an army musket barrel on the camp site. Placing the barrel in a vice to remove the breechpin, in hammering, the old charge went off making a large hole in a two-inch plank.

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New Rochester, Freedom township, 57 lots, was surveyed in May,

1835, by Hiram Steel for Michael Miller, who located there in 1834. However, before this Michael N. Myers had built a large cabin which was the mecca of immigrants. In 1844 Myers built a large two-story frame on the south side of the road since known as the "Myers Hotel." During President Jackson's second term as president, 1833-1837, Myers was appointed postmaster at New Rochester and held the position thirty years. John Bair was then the mail carrier between Perrysburg and Bucyrus.

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There was a sawmill at Pemberville in 1836 built by Calkins and Ira Banks. From this mill Alfred Thurstin of Bowling Green, hauled lumber to be used in flooring the Bowling Green school house, located at the northeast corner of now Main and Ridge streets.

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Rev. Joseph Badger, the Maumee and Sandusky valleys missionary, who preached his first sermon to the Indians on the "Big Island" between now Maumee and Perrysburg, September 11, 1801, on his health failing retired to a farm in Liberty township, Wood county. The location was in section 18, where he kept cows and made cheese and on March 15, 1838, wrote that it was "the best located place to keep stock and a dairy * * * sufficient pasturage and mowing spread out before us in thousands of acres." At the same time he preached in that vicinity and in Maumee, Plain and Perrysburg.

* * * * *

In Fort Meigs cemetery, Perrysburg, lie the remains of Rev. Joseph Badger, the missionary to the Indians of the Maumee and Sandusky Valleys who preached his first sermon to the Indians, on the river, September 11, 1801. He was chaplain of a brigade at Fort Meigs in the War of 1812, and for a time postmaster of the army. After leaving his farm, across the line from Milton in Liberty township, he died at Perrysburg, April 5, 1846, in his 90th year.

* * * * *

J. F. Dubbs, in writing of the early conditions of Liberty, or Wadsworth Prairie, as it was sometimes called, said: "the water was from one to three feet deep, the grass from three to eight feet high; a great part of the prairie was swampy. It was infested with all sorts of beasts, birds and reptiles common to this country. Wolves, snakes, turtles, frogs, cranes, pumpers, deer, flies, but worse in early summer, swarms of ravenous mosquitoes were among the pests."

* * * * *

Dancing and entertainments were held at the village of Chief Tontog-a-nee where Vollmar's Club house is now, more than a century ago, but they were Indian dances. At one of these a young Indian named Nauquazike stabbed and killed Pampquah, another young Ottawa, who essayed to be gallant to Nauquazike's girl or squaw.

* * * * *

At the first election of township officers in Middleton held at the home of Guy Nearing, November 17, 1832, Nearing being moderator, Isaac Van Tassel was elected clerk; Guy Nearing, Sidney L. Brewster, and Michael Sypher, trustees; Epaphroditus Foote, treasurer. Each party present of about twenty, contributed a shilling toward purchasing a record book which was found in the Haskins town meeting place in 1895.

* * * * *

Two churches in the same neighborhood and dedicated the same day in the sixties of 1800, were the Wirtzberg Catholic church, built on the farm of John Wirtz, later of Bowling Green, section 22, Milton township, and St. Louis Catholic church at Custar. Both events were attended with great ceremony and Rev. Amadeus Rappe officiated at both dedications. The first missionary to this section was Father Baur, then of Maumee,

and the first services were held in a log house on the Wirtz farm. The Wirtzburg society was later merged with the St. Louis church.

* * * * *

In speaking of Wood county Indian trails, D. W. H. Howard said, the swamps and streams were always full of water and goods and furs were taken by canoe up and down the Portage river and across to Beaver creek from Portage headquarters. The old trail between Portage and Beaver creeks was a well beaten track. Consequently, this route was continuous from Lake Erie to the Indian village at the mouth of Beaver creek. Howard said he had often, when a boy, passed the walls of the old stockade and blockhouse, Portage.

* * * * *

The first school in Bowling Green was held in the log cabin built by Alfred Thurstin in 1833, with S. W. Hanson, of Maumee, the teacher. The pupils were Louisa, Eliza and Maria Martindale, Henrietta and Phoebe Moore, Nathan and Albert Moore, Ambrose, Albert and Smantha Shiveley, Richard, Ambrose and Joseph Hallington, Mahala and Henrietta Rice and Isaac Hixon. A log school house was built in 1835 near the intersection of South Main street and the Napoleon road. W. G. Charles, Perrysburg, was the first teacher. In 1836 another log school house was built at the northeast corner of now Main and Ridge street.

* * * * *

Bowling Green's first great fire, destroying about one-fourth of the business district, was on August 4, 1887; the second disastrous conflagration occurring on October 31, 1888.

* * * * *

Next to the Elisha Martindale entry of land in now ward four, Bowling Green, in 1832, was the entry made by Stephen Ward, April 18, 1833, and afterwards sold to Thomas Tracy. It was the south half of the southeast quarter of section 24, Plain township, cornered on Main and Wooster streets and ran south to present Pearl street, thus taking in much of now the third ward.

* * * * *

Fever and ague were the prevailing ailments among early settlers. There were military surgeons with Hull's army which passed through Wood county and at Fort Meigs in 1813, and there were early temporary practitioners in different sections, but Dr. William Wood, who located at Perrysburg in 1828, was Wood county's first permanent physician. There were quite a number of cases of rattlesnake attacks. Young Arthur Ewing of Wolf Rapids, was bitten by a rattler and being given up to die by the attending physician, was cured by an old Indian medicine man for a gallon of whiskey. Dr. Horatio Conant gave the Indian three gallons of whiskey for his herb cure.

* * * * *

The petition for the incorporation of Bowling Green was dated July 23rd, 1855. Dr. W. G. Lamb was the first mayor. Waterworks for the city were built in 1892, but the village had a fire company in 1883, with Ave Ireland, fire chief. The present city building was constructed in 1892. A. Froney, W. S. Huskell and D. E. Niver were the building committee, and Andrew Graham, contractor.

* * * * *

In visiting Nathaniel Badger on the west side of Liberty prairie in 1851, where Missionary Joseph Badger had formerly lived, Stella Badger of Plain and a visiting cousin from New York, took a short cut on horseback. They became mired in the vicinity of the notorious "Stoga Hole", and the cousin was rescued from death by natives just as she was about to sink to suffocation, Stella giving the alarm.

* * * * *

As to the little brick school house at Custar, the late E. O. Fallis of

Toledo, was the architect. Spitzer & Company, Toledo, bought the bonds for its construction. Bright & Goodman were the contractors, and in January, 1883, Clay Gaumer and Alice Hughes were the first teachers.

* * * * *

The first postoffice in Montgomery township was at Montgomery Cross Roads, Guy Morgan, postmaster. The mail route was between Bucyrus and Perrysburg. Later a branch route connected with Fremont with an office at Freeport (Wayne). The trip to Perrysburg from Bucyrus took four days ordinarily.

* * * * *

The first sawmill in Montgomery township was operated by water-power and on the outlet of Freeport, Prairie Run, section 21, the Cox farm. There was always plenty of water but the current was sometimes deficient. It was named the "Elbow and water mill", as it was stated the sawyers sometimes had to help turn the water-wheel. The Adams grist mill, 1838, on the McCutchenville pike, southwest of Freeport (Wayne), was also run by water power from a dam.

* * * * *

In the history of Perry township in a weather record kept by John Crocker is this: Jan. 26, 1826, 21 degrees below; April 10, five inches snow; January 20, 1827, 31 degrees below; March, 1828, great flood; February 7, 1831, 42 degrees below; July, 1831, Portage high, wet summer; May 8, 1832, apple trees in bloom, cold summer; January 2, 1838, very warm. John Morrison plowed two days.

* * * * *

Perrysburg was always a station on the "underground railroad" and the present Perrysburg Journal office has been made famous because the basement of the building was a depot for the negro refugees.

* * * * *

One of Perrysburg's early important projects was the Hydraulic Canal which ran along the right river bank from above Fort Meigs. The factories in 1862 deriving power from this canal were: Crooks cabinet shop, Linday's planing mill; Tefft's sawmill; Peter Witzler's cabinet shop, cider, sorgum and carding mill; Hirth's tannery; G. W. Brown & Co.'s foundry; Perrysburg flouring mills, and a paper mill.

* * * * *

An historian refers to Ross township as "the cap of Wood county", extending from the river to the east line. Except Grand Rapids, Ross is the county's youngest township, being set off from Perrysburg and Lake townships in 1874. In 1897, Ross township had neither saloon nor church.

* * * * *

About 1825 Artemus Beebe and Ezra S. Adams of Elyria, purchased the interest of Silas Wolverton in the mail route between Cleveland and Lower Sandusky (Fremont) which they extended to Detroit via Perrysburg over the new Western Reserve road. In 1836, Neil Moore & Co.'s coaches were placed on the Fremont-Perrysburg-Toledo-Detroit route and operated until put out of business by the railroads.

* * * * *

The Deckers of the early thirties were expert bee-tree hunters. Guy Nearing agreed to give them a dollar for every bee-tree found. They had marked many trees north of Bowling Green and with an ox-wagon filled with barrels, Nearing packed the honey, stamping it down with his bare feet, and from the river, shipped the sweet cargo to Buffalo.

* * * * *

About 1837 an Irishman named Gwynn, built a three-story house two miles south of Tontogany, but never entirely completed it; projected a corduroy road from his house to Otsego which failed, after which he

fled the country. Dr. Neibling, in 1845, sawed the building in two parts for homes, making a hen coop of the third story. The situation was the nucleus of a settlement called "Germany" among whom were Guido Marx, later mayor of Toledo, Ernest Miehe, E. W. E. Koch, Albert and Robert Just, C. Marksheffle, Conrad Bobel and others.

* * * * *

The old Dayton & Michigan railroad was completed from Toledo to Tontogany, June 17, 1859, and a through train from Cincinnati reached Toledo August 18. The extension of Bowling Green-Tontogany line, now a part of the B. & O. system, from Bowling Green to North Baltimore, was made in 1890-91.

* * * * *

Wood county bear stories are numerous. Peter Ferciot felled a big sycamore in the Devil's Hole, housing a bear and three cubs; while Mrs. Eli Calvin was calling on her neighbor, Mrs. Joseph Myers, New Rochester, in 1851, a bear carried off one of Myers pigs; as Mrs. Isaac Van Tassel, Milton, with a babe in arms was visiting a neighbor, Mrs. Andrew Hutchinson, one April day, a big black bear crossed her path; while searching for cubs down a hollow stub the mother bear came down the interior backwards and the only way John Gillet could extricate himself was to prod the bear with his knife as she pulled him up, while Gillet had a tail hold.

* * * * *

A species of game the Indians found undesirable and numerous in some sections after the War of 1812, was the wild hog, propagated from droves lost by army contractors. When aroused they were more ferocious than wolf or bear and in droves neither man nor beast could escape except in treeing or hasty flight. The Indians with bows and arrows and tomahawks, stood poor show with this new kind of game. In the fall the whites sometimes formed hunting parties and replenished their winter meat supply.

* * * * *

The first recorded mention of the Portage river, is in a letter dated November 6, 1782, written at Lower Sandusky (Fremont), by William Dawson, a fur dealer, imparting the information that "two French traders will be at or near the Portash (Portage) river the winter"—in 1782-1783 to do trapping and hunting.

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In 1824 wheat sold for 25 cents per bushel and corn for ten cents per bushel. In 1828 it took sixteen pounds of butter to pay one letter carriage to New York or Boston and other seaboard points.

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